

CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A circuit for amplifying an audio source, the circuit comprising:

an audio pre-amplifier having volume control inputs, wherein the pre-amplifier receives the audio source and receives power from a power source;

an audio amplifier connected to the pre-amplifier and the power source, the audio amplifier outputting an amplified audio signal;

a power supervisory circuit that monitors power used by the audio amplifier and pre-amplifier; and

a volume control circuit that activates at least one of the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power used the pre-amplifier and audio amplifier is beyond a pre-determined limit.

2. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 1 wherein the pre-amplifier is a Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC).

3. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 wherein the volume control inputs are digital.

4. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 1 wherein the supervisory circuit detects whether a supply voltage to the amplifier falls below a pre-determined threshold.

5. (Currently Amended) An audio amplifier system for driving computer speakers from a bus port of a personal computer, the system comprising:

a DAC having volume control inputs and a bus interface, wherein the DAC is adapted to receive a digital audio signal through the bus interface and output an analog audio signal;

an audio amplifier that receives the analog audio signal from the DAC and outputs an amplified audio signal for driving speakers;

a power supervisory circuit that monitors power used by the audio amplifier and the DAC;
and

a volume control circuit that activates at least one of the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power used to drive the ~~the~~ audio amplifier and DAC is beyond a pre-determined limit.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5 wherein the power used by the system is supplied over the bus port.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5 wherein the volume control inputs are adapted to be actuated by the user, and wherein the volume control circuit overrides a user actuation of the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power signal used to drive the power supply input of the audio amplifier is beyond the pre-determined limit.

8. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the volume control inputs are digital.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5 wherein the supervisory circuit detects whether a supply voltage used to drive the audio amplifier falls below a pre-determined threshold.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) An audio amplifier system for driving computer speakers through a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port comprising:

a USB DAC having volume control inputs and a USB interface, wherein the USB DAC is adapted to receive a digital audio signal and output an analog audio signal, and wherein the USB DAC is adapted to receive power through the USB port;

an audio amplifier that receives the analog audio signal from the USB DAC and that outputs an amplified audio signal for driving speakers, wherein the audio amplifier is adapted to receive power through the USB port;

a power supervisory circuit that monitors power used by the audio amplifier and the USB DAC; and

a volume control circuit that activates at least one of the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power used to drive the audio amplifier and the USB DAC is beyond a pre-determined limit.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the volume control inputs are adapted to be actuated by the user, and wherein the volume control circuit overrides a user actuation of the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power signal provided by the power input of the bus port connection is beyond the pre-determined limit.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the volume control inputs are digital.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the supervisory circuit detects whether a supply voltage used to drive the audio amplifier falls below a pre-determined threshold.

17-18. (Cancelled)